

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee,

I support HB 1089 Sections 23-29. I live in Wilton Ct. As a BCBA working in the state of Connecticut, I feel it is important that we work towards furthering the advancement of the field of behavior analysis within the state through research, education, and dissemination of information. With the number of states that already require licensure (19), as well as the states surrounding CT (MA, NY and RI) it is important that we follow their lead to make it easier for families to obtain services through private insurance funding which could reduce the burden on public services. In addition, Medicaid regulations could incorporate licensure requirements, which would make it difficult for families to access services if Ct. does not have licensure. As a parent, I would like the security of knowing that if my children or family members needed to access to these services they would be readily available without the risk of having to relocate to an area where they are more accessible.

Licensure for behavior analyst will increase consumer protection, as behavior analysts often work with the most vulnerable of populations (e.g., those with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, intellectual disability, other developmental disabilities, and behavior disorders). Licensure will provide consumers of behavior analysis (e.g., families, public school districts, DDS, private insurance providers, and Medicaid providers) a means of regulating the practice of applied behavior analysis (ABA).

Licensure of behavior analysts will not impact the scope of practice for other professionals (e.g., licensed psychologist), as HB 1089 has been drafted to include specific language to protect the rights of other professionals who have behavior analysis within their scope of practice.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Christina Ayoub

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